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NOTES AND NEWS.

I DESIRE to correct an erroneous statement in the last volume of the Transactions of the Anthropological Society of Washington. In the discussion of a paper read by Dr. Reynolds, May 19th, 1885, on the life and work of Count Ercolani, I stated that, in my opinion, Count Ercolani would be best known in the future by his discoveries in comparative anatomy, more especially in connection with veterinary science, but I pointed out that the writer had omitted to mention in the list of Ercolani's publications his life of Carlo Ruini, 'an Italian veterinary surgeon of the end of the sixteenth century, in whose writings was to be found a foreshadowing, imperfect, indeed, of the later discovery of the circulation of the blood.

In the Transactions, Volume III, p. 171, I am represented to have said that "Count Ercolani would probably be remembered principally for his discovery that the [theory of the] circulation of the blood was known and promulgated prior to [the time of] Harvey."

Apart from the utter misrepresentation of my meaning, such an assertion, unchallenged and uncontradicted in the Society, would go forth to some extent as an authoritative statement detracting in a quite unwarranted manner from the resplendent merits of the discovery of Harvey and doing injustice to the valuable researches of Ercolani.

Ruini, like Cesalpino, Colombo Realdo, Servetus, and some others, had glimpses of the truth—knew something of the pulmonic circulation, the passage of the blood from the heart to the lungs and its return to the former organ—but the complete demonstration of the pulmonic and systemic circulation, the very foundation stone of all modern physiology, was the work of William Harvey.

R. F.

AN EIGHTH STERNAL RIB.—Some years since, while demonstrating the human sternum before a class of students, I noticed that there were eight sternal ribs instead of the usual number, seven. Presuming that the anomaly was of frequent occurrence and of no

importance, I paid no more attention to it than occasionally to preserve such a sternum. In course of time I had a small collection, some of which I gave to the Army Medical Museum, others to students, and still others kept for myself. I mentioned the matter now and then to my professional brethren, but no one showed any particular interest in the subject.

In all cases where I found this anomaly, and at the same time noted the color and race of the individual, it was a member of the negro race and commonly of dark color. Inasmuch as the great majority of subjects examined by me is from this race, I infer the probability that the anomaly is a characteristic of this race. I know of but one exception, namely, in the skeleton of an old Indian woman in the Army Medical Museum. The eighth cartilage was almost always found articulating at the base of the ensiform cartilage.

Finally I concluded to examine the literature on the subject. The research resulted as follows:

Of the English anatomists, Gibson, 1703; Aitken, 1786; John and Charles Bell; Monro, 1813; Fyfe, 1815; Paxton, 1835; Bransby Cooper, 1844, and Harrison, Quain, Wilson, Gray, Turner, and Holden make no mention of the anomaly. Humphrey, on the "Skeleton," says in a foot-note: "In a specimen in the Cambridge Museum there are eight cartilages of ribs separately united to the sternum." Apparently he had seen no others.

I found no mention of it in French authors: Heister, 1735; Sabatier, 1791; Portal, 1803; Desault, 1805; Maygrier, 1811; Boyer, 1815; Bichat, 1819; Lauth, 1829; Cloquet, 1836; Bonamy and Bean, 1844; Masse, 1858, and Cruveilhier, Sappey, Fort, Moynar, and Morel and Duval.

Of German authors, Mayer, 1783; Roemer, 1831; Weber, 1839; Rösenmuller, 1840; Arnold, 1844; Hollstein, 1860; Meyer, 1861; Hoffman, 1877; Krause, 1879; Hartman, 1881; Heitzman, 1884; Hyrtl, 1884, and Von Behr and Meckel make no mention of it. Aeby, 1871, says that it sometimes occurs, and Henle, 1867, quotes the foot-note of Humphrey above mentioned.

Of American authors, Handy, 1854; Richardson, 1867, and Horner, Wistar, and Morton, I believe Leidy also, make no mention of it. Allen says, "A supplemental pair of costal cartilages are rarely appended to the base of the ensiform cartilage."

The almost entire absence of mention of this anomaly by European anatomists seems to have but one explanation, namely, that

it occurs rarely, if at all, in the cadavers which come under their critical eyes—cadavers which are, undoubtedly, almost entirely Caucasian. This omission lends additional support to the theory I have advanced, that the anomaly is a characteristic of the African race. Inasmuch, however, as it has been found at least once in the Indian and the Mongolians and Malays are yet to be heard from, the matter is still *sub judice*.

In the meantime the subject was brought before the Society of American Anatomists at the meeting of the Medical Congress in September last. A short notice also appeared in *Science* of October 19th, and Surg. J. S. Billings, curator Army Medical Museum, has addressed a circular to anatomists and others, of which the following is an extract: "Have you seen any cases in which there were eight (8) true or sternal ribs, the eighth rib being joined directly by its own cartilage to the sternum and not through the cartilage of the seventh rib? If so, it is desirable to know for each case whether the person was white, negro, mulatto, Indian, half-breed, Celt, etc., and the sex; also whether the anomaly was present on both sides or on one side only, and, if the latter, on which side.

"If the specimens, roughly dissected out, can be sent to this Museum for preparation and examination, each accompanied with the above-mentioned data, they will be gladly received. The results of this inquiry will be published and full credit given to all contributors."

I might add that an examination of the sternums of the orang-outang, golden howler, gibbon, and langar show seven sternal ribs, while the black macaque, spider monkey, capped macaque, marmoset, and lemur have eight. Should further examination of these animals show that such characteristics are fairly constant, we may be in possession of some new facts welcome to those who believe in the multiple origin of the human species.

D. S. LAMB, M. D.

THE SAVAGE'S SIDE ARMS.—There is nothing more attractive in collections of stone implements than the leaf-shaped, or hastate, chipped specimens that are very thin and range from a few inches to a foot in length. I have often scrutinized these treasures and have admired the affection which their owners bestow upon them. I have lately received from California six examples of these imple-

ments, collected from the Hupa Indians by Capt. P. H. Ray, U. S. A., which seem to me to solve the mystery of function. The pieces referred to are 3 to 5 inches long, $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide and are extremely thin. They are made of red and mottled green and red jasper. One of the specimens is from a grave and the hafting is very old; four are quite modern and are hafted into the end of pine sticks and glued fast. One has about two-thirds of its lower end wrapped with a long strip of land-otter skin with the hair on. All of these are the side arms of warriors used in close combat, and are very effective among half-naked savages in marring the countenance or hacking the body.

These specimens were held in great esteem by the Hupas, and they only parted with them for high figures.

Now, I am aware that the process from particulars to generalities should be slow and sure. Therefore, it is with modesty that I venture to assert that the beautiful leaf-shaped blade is the savage gentleman's "side weapon." I am confirmed in my opinion by the consideration that among barbarous and half-civilized peoples the dagger, the kris, the short sword, the stiletto, and all others of this class are constructed regardless of expense and are very highly prized.

It occurs to me also that few of the leaf-shaped specimens exhibit such wear and tear as would arise from cutting substances harder than flesh. Scalping, hand-to-hand encounters, and all the fighting in which the dagger or the bowie-knife would figure might evoke this weapon.

The costliness and delicacy of the blade would only enhance its value in the eyes of the Indian brave. At any rate, I have positive evidence that among the Hupas the leaf-shaped blade, hafted in wood or wrapped in fur, was the savage's "side arms."

O. T. MASON.

BASSA LINGUISTIC NOTES.—In the summer of 1886 I met a young colored man, son of a Bassa chief. He came to this country in order to study for the ministry, and when I saw him he was a student at Storer College, Harper's Ferry, W. Va. His people dwell in Western Africa, near Cape Palmas. He dictated the following words and phrases.

The alphabet used is that of the Bureau of Ethnology. The in-

verted "t" (ɿ) is a sonant-surd, having a sound *between* those of "t" and "d." The single initial quotation mark (') denotes an initial modification of the following vowel. This modification is called by one authority a "grunt;" by others, an "explosion." It is found in languages of the Siouan family, the Muskokee (*vide* Mrs. A. E. W. Robertson), and that of Hawaii, according to a brother of Gen. Armstrong, of Hampton, Va.

Name of the people, *Bäs'-sâ*.

Bassa man, *Bäs-sâ'-gä*.

Bassa woman, *Bäs-sâ'-mä*.

One man, *gä' yu-a'-ry*.

One woman, *mä' yu-a'-ry*.

[*y*, a sound between "o" in "note" and "oo" in "fool."]

Water, *n'i*.

Fire, *nyě*.

Tree, *tc'u* or *tc'ü*.

That visible tree, *tc'ü' ni-ai-yě*.

That very distant tree, *tc'ü' ni-ai-rě da-nañ'-kě*.

One tree, *tc'u' do* (archaic); *tc'u yu-a'-ry* (modern).

Two trees, *tc'u sã*.

Three trees, *tc'u tä*.

Four trees, *tc'u hiⁿ-yü'*.

Five trees, *tc'u hul'-üm-hüm* (with closed lips).

Six trees, *tc'u mē'-do* (5 + 1?).

Seven trees, *tc'u mrē'-sã* (5 + 2?).

Eight trees, *tc'u mrē'-tä* (5 + 3?).

Nine trees, *tc'u mrē'-hiⁿ-yü'* (5 + 4?).

Ten trees, *tc'u blä'-bwi*.

Eleven, *blä'-bwi-do* (10 + 1).

Twenty, *pläⁿ-yã*.

One hog, *be dō* (archaic); *bē yu-a'-ry* (modern).

Hand, *sa*.

His eye, *äg-dē*.

Your eye, *ne'-iñg-dē*.

My eye, *nēg-dē*.

His hand, *ä-saⁿ*.

Your hand, *ne'-in-saⁿ*.

My hand, *nē-saⁿ*.

His head, *ä-ıru'*.

Your head, *ne'-in-iru*.

My head, *nen'-iru*.

His head aches, *a-iru' e-pwai'-iⁿ*.

Does your head ache? *ne'-in-iru e'-pwai'-iⁿ*.

My head aches, *nen'-iru pwai'-iⁿ*.

His hand pains, *a-saⁿ' pwai'-iⁿ*.

Does your hand pain? *ne'-in-saⁿ' pwai'-iⁿ* (?).

My hand pains, *ne'-saⁿ' pwai'-iⁿ*.

J. OWEN DORSEY.

THE PEONS OF MEXICO.—The paper of Prof. Otis T. Mason, in this number, reminds me forcibly of the remarkable carrying capacity of those ubiquitous porters of Mexico—the *Cargadores*. In every part of the country have I observed them patiently following the trails and carrying immense loads on their backs. I recollect seeing, four years ago, near a railroad station, half a dozen of them squatting on the ground, resting. One had a sofa upon his shoulders, strapped on I could not see how; another bore a tower of chairs locked into each other and rising not less than eight feet above his head; another carried a hen-coop with a dozen or twenty hens, and others were conveying laden barrels and various household goods. They had come, they said, from San Luis Potósi, not less than fifty miles distant. These *cargadores* will cover thirty miles a day for a week or more, going from ocean to Gulf.

During a ride which I made over the Andes on the Mexican National Railroad, these persistent carriers were almost always in sight from the car windows, the peons and burros following each other up and down the slopes. The vice-president of the road, Thomas C. Purdy, whose guest I was, said, as we watched these animated trains advancing on parallel lines, "There is our rival. That is the only transportation company we fear. If it were not for that line, this country would treble its railroads next year and the roads would double their profits. We are combatting the custom of centuries. Those fellows carry on their backs to Mexico the entire crops of great haciendas far over the mountains. I have been and sat down with a wealthy and enterprising *haciendado* and explained to him that we could do his carrying in a quarter of the time and for half the cost, and have seen him refuse to change and stubbornly stick to the old method. I was never before so impressed with the tremendous force of habit."

W. A. CROFFUT.

ON THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL VALUE OF THE HYOID BONE.—In a paper recently presented to the Berlin Congress of Americanists by Dr. H. ten Kate and myself upon "A new anatomical characteristic of the hyoid bone in the ancient Pueblo Indians of Arizona" we remarked that "a study of the human hyoid arch or of those elements of it which take part in the formation of what is familiarly known as the hyoid bone of human anatomy has, so far as we have been able to learn, been entirely neglected from the point of view of the anthropologist. That it affords characters of more than ordinary importance and interest in the matter of racial distinction we are led to believe from the results of certain preliminary observations which we have made upon a comparatively full series of the hyoid bones of this people, as compared with the statements of many leading anatomists."

Anatomists generally seem to be pretty well agreed in assigning the middle period of life as the time when the greater cornua of the hyoid unite or coössify with the median piece or body, and a much later period for the bony union of the lesser cornua, although no less an authority than Meckel is responsible for the statement that the five pieces rarely unite, and should be considered as so many separate bones. This statement appears to have been accepted by Henle and Hyrtl, and Professor Virchow, in discussing the paper above mentioned, stated that the elements of the hyoid are never coössified, except under pathological conditions. Professor Flower, upon the other hand, had always found the greater cornua coössified with the body in individuals at or beyond the middle period of life, and referred to an extensive series which he had collected for the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons.

Taking into consideration our limited knowledge of the hyoid in the different races of mankind, I have conceived that this conflict of opinion is largely due to differences in the hyoid bones of the respective peoples in which it has been examined. I have been engaged for several months past in collecting materials for a more extensive study and further elaboration of this subject, and while I am not as yet in a position to draw any final conclusions, still I feel more than ever convinced that there are important differential characters to be found in the hyoid bones of some races at least.

In the collection of skeletons of these ancient Pueblos there are in all fifty-seven specimens of hyoids belonging to individuals that were beyond the middle period of life. This we determined by a

careful examination of the skull with reference to synostosis of sutures, wear and obliteration of the teeth, and such other characters as would indicate age. Of this series of fifty-seven about 88 per cent. exhibit lack of bony union of the great cornua with the body; or, in other words, the percentage of coössification is 12.

In a series of twenty-eight negro hyoids which I have been able to examine I find that the percentage of coössification is very high. Of this series of twenty-eight, twenty-three are from thirty-five years of age upwards and represent both sexes. I have selected those of thirty-five years and upwards for the reason that any lower limit would be too far removed from the middle period of life to serve as a basis of comparison, although two of the remaining five, one of which is twenty and the other twenty-seven years, both show bony union of the great cornua upon one side. Among the series of twenty-three there are twenty which are united, and three are free. Of those that are united sixteen are joined upon both sides and seven upon one side—always the right—so that the percentage of coössification is 66 as against 12 in the ancient Pueblos.

Unfortunately, the subjects from whom many of these hyoids were derived were not of pure African descent, so that I am somewhat at a loss to tell just what influence this may have had upon the union of the hyoidean elements, and while I am not willing to say that this percentage of 66 represents accurately the state of the case in the negro, yet it is sufficient to demonstrate a comparatively early bony union of these parts.

DR. J. L. WORTMAN.